

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 7 and 19, and have cancelled claims 2, 5, and 21. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-20 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 5-7, 13-14, 16 and 21 include allowable subject matter. Applicants have therefore amended independent claim 1 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 2 is also incorporated into claim 1. Thus claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled.

In addition, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 21 (now cancelled) into independent claim 19.

With the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-20, are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under Section 103

Claims 1-4, 8-12, 15, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kemmochi in view of Asano. By this Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 103(a) rejection.

As noted above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 19 by incorporating allowable subject matter. All pending claims include subject matter found allowable by the Examiner. Thus Applicants have overcome the Section 103(a) rejection based on the Kemmochi and Asano Patents.

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Amendment Dated July 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2005

MTS-3507US

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-20 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel N. Calder

Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/dmw

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 6, 2005.

Donna M. Wellings

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